

188610

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

(Caption of Case)

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Joint Application of

PAETEC COMMUNICATIONS INC.

and

US LEC COMMUNICATIONS OF SOUTH
CAROLINA INC.

For Approval of Intracorporate Merger,
Assignment of US LEC's Authority

COVER SHEET

DOCKET
NUMBER: 2007 - 364 - C

(Please type or print)

Submitted by: Craig H. Metz

SC Bar Number: 8134

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Address: Venable LLP

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575 7th Street, NW

Other: _____

Washington, DC 20004

Email: chmetz@venable.com

NOTE: The cover sheet and information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form is required for use by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina for the purpose of docketing and must be filled out completely.

DOCKETING INFORMATION (Check all that apply)

☐ Emergency Relief demanded in petition

☒ Request for item to be placed on Commission's Agenda
expeditiously

☐ Other: _____

INDUSTRY (Check one)	NATURE OF ACTION (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Electric	<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Request
<input type="checkbox"/> Electric/Gas	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/> Memorandum	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Certification
<input type="checkbox"/> Electric/Telecommunications	<input type="checkbox"/> Answer	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Investigation
<input type="checkbox"/> Electric/Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Appellate Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Objection	<input type="checkbox"/> Resale Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Electric/Water/Telecom.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Resale Amendment
<input type="checkbox"/> Electric/Water/Sewer	<input type="checkbox"/> Brief	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition for Reconsideration	<input type="checkbox"/> Reservation Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Gas	<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition for Rulemaking	<input type="checkbox"/> Response
<input type="checkbox"/> Railroad	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition for Rule to Show Cause	<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Discovery
<input type="checkbox"/> Sewer	<input type="checkbox"/> Complaint	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Intervene	<input type="checkbox"/> Return to Petition
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telecommunications	<input type="checkbox"/> Consent Order	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Intervene Out of Time	<input type="checkbox"/> Stipulation
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Discovery	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefiled Testimony	<input type="checkbox"/> Subpoena
<input type="checkbox"/> Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion	<input type="checkbox"/> Tariff
<input type="checkbox"/> Water/Sewer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expedited Consideration	<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Order	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>COPY</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Matter	<input type="checkbox"/> Interconnection Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/> Protest	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Interconnection Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Publisher's Affidavit	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Late-Filed Exhibit	<input type="checkbox"/> Report	

Print Form

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Posted: led

Dept: SA. VORS

Date: 10/3/07

Time: 12:05

September 27, 2007

VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Charles Terreni
Chief Clerk
South Carolina Public Service Commission
101 Executive Center Dr.
Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

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2007 OCT -3 AM 9:56
SC PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

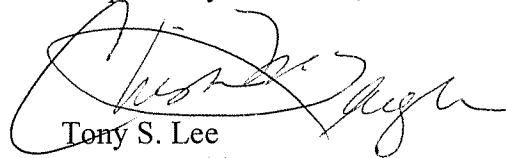
Re: Joint Application of PAETEC Communications, Inc., and US LEC of South Carolina Inc., for Approval of Intra-Corporate Merger, Assignment of Authorization and Cancellation of US LEC's Authority to Provide Telecommunications Service

Dear Mr. Terreni:

On behalf of PAETEC Communications, Inc., and US LEC of South Carolina Inc., transmitted herewith are an original and ten (10) copies of the above-referenced application for approval of an intra-corporate merger and cancellation of US LEC's authority to provide telecommunications service.

Please date-stamp the extra copy of this filing, and return it to us in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. Should you have any questions with respect to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (202) 344-4679.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony S. Lee
Grace R. Chiu
Christine McLaughlin

Counsel to PAETEC Communications, Inc., and
US LEC Communications Inc.

Enclosures

cc: JT Ambrosi

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

Joint Application of)
)
PAETEC COMMUNICATIONS., INC.)
)
and)
)
US LEC OF SOUTH CAROLINA, INC.)
)
For Approval of Intra-Corporate Merger;)
Assignment of US LEC's Authority to)
Provide Telecommunications Service, or)
In the Alternative, Cancellation of US)
LEC's Authority to Provide)
Telecommunications Service, Authority for)
PAETEC to Provide Resold And Facilities-)
Based Local Exchange Service And)
Exchange Access Service)
_____)

Docket No. 2007-364-C

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COMMISSION

JOINT APPLICATION

PAETEC Communications, Inc. ("PAETEC") and US LEC of South Carolina, Inc. ("US LEC ") d/b/a/ PAETEC Business Services (collectively, "Applicants"), by their undersigned counsel, and pursuant to Section 58-9-310 of the South Carolina Code, SC ST § 58-9-310, hereby request that the Commission approve a transaction whereby telecommunications companies affiliated by common ownership propose to merge and assign certain authority held by one company to the surviving corporation. Specifically, PAETEC and US LEC, which are both ultimately owned by PAETEC Holding Corp., propose to undergo a transaction whereby US LEC will be merged into PAETEC and cease its separate corporate existence. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the South Carolina Public Service Commission ("Commission") (1) approve the proposed intra-corporate merger of PAETEC and US LEC, with PAETEC the surviving entity; (2)

assign US LEC's authorization to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange and exchange access telecommunications services in the state of South Carolina to PAETEC; and (3) effective upon completion of the intra-corporate merger, which is anticipated to occur on or about January 1, 2008, cancel US LEC's authorization to provide interexchange services.

As more fully described below, the proposed merger will result in a change in the service provider for US LEC's current customers, as those customers will become the customers of PAETEC. Applicants respectfully request that approval of this Application be granted no later than December 1, 2007, so that the parties may consummate the proposed transaction on or about January 1, 2008, to merge US LEC into PAETEC, and streamline the companies' operations.¹

In support hereof, Applicants state as follows:

I. THE PARTIES

A. PAETEC Communications, Inc.

PAETEC is a Delaware corporation with principal offices located at One PAETEC Plaza, 600 Willowbrook Office Park, Fairport, New York 14450. PAETEC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PAETEC Corp., which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PAETEC Holding Corp., a publicly traded Delaware corporation (NASDAQ: PAET). PAETEC Holding Corp. is the holding company of several subsidiaries, including the parties to this proceeding. Formed in 1998, PAETEC and its affiliates provide innovative

¹ PAETEC Holding Corp. has entered into a merger agreement with McLeodUSA Incorporated, whereby PAETEC Holding Corp. will acquire indirect control of McLeodUSA Telecommunications Services, Inc., a telecommunications company certificated to provide service in South Carolina. PAETEC Holding Corp. and McLeodUSA have filed or will file shortly a separate petition with the Commission regarding that transaction. Applicants therefore respectfully request that Commission staff process both applications concurrently, so that the benefits of the intra-corporate merger, may be realized as early as possible.

communications solutions to medium and large businesses and institutions through a full line of telecommunications and Internet services, enterprise communications management software, security solutions, and managed services. The company offers personalized solutions that include a comprehensive suite of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services delivered over its Private-IP MPLS network.

In South Carolina, PAETEC is authorized to provide resold and facilities-based intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in the State of South Carolina pursuant to certification granted by the Commission by Order No. 1999-60, issued in Docket No. 98-404-C. PAETEC is also authorized to provide interexchange and/or competitive local exchange service in numerous other states pursuant to certification, registration, or tariff requirements, or on a deregulated basis. In addition, PAETEC is authorized by the Federal Communications Commission to provide international services as a non-dominant carrier.

Further information regarding PAETEC's technical, managerial, and financial qualifications to provide service was submitted with its application for authority to provide service in the state, and therefore, that information is a matter of public record. PAETEC respectfully requests that the Commission take official notice of that information, and incorporate it by reference herein.

B. US LEC of South Carolina, INC.

US LEC, a Delaware corporation, is a wholly owned subsidiary of US LEC Corp., which in turn is a wholly owned subsidiary of PAETEC Holding Corp. Both US LEC companies maintain their principal offices in Charlotte, North Carolina. US LEC Corp. is a leading provider of IP, data and voice solutions to business customers and enterprise organizations throughout the Eastern United States. Members of the US LEC family of

companies are currently authorized to provide resold and/or facilities-based telecommunications services in 43 states and the District of Columbia pursuant to certification, registration or tariff requirements, or on a deregulated basis.

In South Carolina, US LEC is authorized to provide resold and facilities-based intrastate interexchange telecommunications services and resold and facilities-based local exchange and exchange access telecommunications services in the State of South Carolina pursuant to certification granted by the Commission by Order No. 97-957, issued in Docket No. 97-300-C. Further information regarding US LEC's legal, technical, managerial and financial qualifications to provide service was submitted with its applications for certification. Such information therefore is already a matter of public record, and Applicants request that it be incorporated by reference herein.

US LEC and its affiliates provide local exchange services in Alabama, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. US LEC operating subsidiaries are also authorized by the Federal Communications Commission to provide international and domestic interstate services as nondominant carriers. PAETEC Holding Corp. filed a notice of its merger with US LEC Corp. and acquisition of control US LEC with the Commission on or about September 12, 2006. US LEC is now an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of PAETEC Holding Corp.

II. DESIGNATED CONTACTS

All matters related to this Application, including all inquires, correspondence, communications, pleadings, notices, orders, and decisions, should be addressed to the following:

Tony S. Lee
Grace R. Chiu
Venable LLP
575 7th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004
Tel: (202) 344-4000
Fax: (202) 344-8300
E-mail: tslee@venable.com
grchiu@venable.com

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE INTRA-CORPORATE MERGER

By way of background, in 2006, PAETEC Holding Corp. and US LEC Corp. previously agreed to merge, in order to expand their telecommunications operations in a cost-efficient manner, thereby enhancing the combined company's competitive position and ability to provide integrated telecommunications services to customers in South Carolina as well as other states. After receiving all necessary approvals from regulatory agencies, PAETEC Holding Corp. and US LEC Corp. consummated the transaction, and PAETEC Holding Corp. became a publicly traded company. Both PAETEC and US LEC are now indirect wholly-owned subsidiaries of PAETEC Holding Corp.

While the companies have started the process of streamlining and integrating their operations, the companies continue to maintain separate billing systems, customer service operations, and other internal processes that are largely duplicative. In order to eliminate redundancies and inefficiencies, and to further streamline company operations, the parties have determined that they should consolidate their administrative and business operations into a unified system. To that end, Applicants propose to merge US LEC into PAETEC, with PAETEC surviving and serving all of US LEC's current customers. Post-transaction, it is anticipated that PAETEC Corp. and US LEC Corp. will hold a 70% and

30% interest in PAETEC, respectively.² A diagram depicting the proposed transaction is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Following the merger, ultimate ownership and control of US LEC's business will continue to reside in PAETEC Holding Corp. PAETEC will provide telecommunications services to US LEC's current customers pursuant to authority granted to PAETEC by the Commission. The rates, terms, and conditions of service will be provided pursuant to existing US LEC contracts assumed by PAETEC, or pursuant to PAETEC's tariffs. There will be no immediate changes to the rates and services provided to US LEC's existing customers, and upon expiration of any service contracts with those customers, they will have the option to continue service with PAETEC pursuant to its then-current rates, terms, and conditions or other negotiated agreements, or to select service from another telecommunications service provider. The proposed merger will be completely seamless to US LEC's existing customers in terms of the services they currently receive. Applicants will provide US LEC customers with at least 30 days' advance subscriber notice of the merger prior to completion of the transaction. A copy of the form of customer notice is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

Because the parties are managed by the same team of well-qualified officers and directors, key personnel in charge of the companies' operations will not change as a result of the proposed merger and discontinuance. PAETEC's management, which oversees US LEC's current operations, will ensure that US LEC's customers continue to receive high quality and innovative services before and after the transition. Affected

² The final percentages to be held by PAETEC Corp. and US LEC Corp. may vary from the estimates provided herein; however, any such change will not be material. In particular, PAETEC Corp. will continue to own a controlling share of PAETEC at all times before and after the merger. Both PAETEC Corp. and US LEC Corp. will remain wholly owned subsidiaries of PAETEC Holding Corp.

customers will receive the same services from PAETEC that they currently receive from US LEC, and PAETEC will continue to provide services pursuant to its own certificate of authority, as referenced above.

To accomplish the proposed corporate restructuring, prior state regulatory approval is required in several states in addition to South Carolina. However, US LEC must retain its authorization to provide interexchange service in South Carolina until all approvals are obtained and the merger is completed. Premature cancellation of US LEC authorization to provide telecommunications service in South Carolina could lead to unintended disruptions in service until the merger is completed. Accordingly, Applicants request that cancellation of US LEC's certificate to provide interexchange services become effective upon completion of the intra-corporate merger, which is anticipated to occur on or about January 1, 2008, to ensure that US LEC can provide continuous uninterrupted service to the public following Commission approval of this Application, and prior to completion of the proposed merger.

IV. REQUEST TO ASSIGN AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE SERVICE, OR FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE SERVICE

As discussed above, PAETEC is authorized to provide intrastate interexchange services, while US LEC is authorized to provide intrastate facilities-based and resold interexchange services, facilities-based and resold local exchange services and exchange access services. Because PAETEC does not hold equivalent authority to provide service in South Carolina, PAETEC requests that US LEC's certificate of authority to provide intrastate facilities-based and resold local exchange services and competitive access services be assigned to PAETEC to ensure that it can continue to provide service to former US LEC customers without interruption after consummation of the intra-corporate

merger. In the alternative, the PAETEC requests that it be issued a certificate of authority to provide intrastate facilities-based and resold local exchange services and competitive access services.

V. PUBLIC INTEREST CONSIDERATIONS

The primary objective of the merger is to achieve greater corporate efficiencies by eliminating duplicative billing systems, customer service operations, and other internal processes maintained by the parties. The proposed transaction will serve the public interest by combining and fully integrating the financial resources and complementary operating, technical, and managerial strengths of PAETEC and US LEC to better serve the companies' constituent subscribers. Applicants anticipate that the proposed transaction will result in a more efficient company better equipped to accelerate its growth as a competitive telecommunications provider. The transaction will enable PAETEC to strengthen its competitive position in South Carolina by enabling the company to achieve economies of scale and efficiencies of operation, with opportunities to enhance service quality and expand service offerings, which will inure to the benefit of consumers through improved service. Thus, approval of the instant Application will ensure continued provision of high quality, affordable telecommunications services to existing customers, and promote competition in the South Carolina telecommunications services market by offering consumers a cost effective and competitive alternative. Therefore, grant of this Application is in the public interest.

VI. REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW

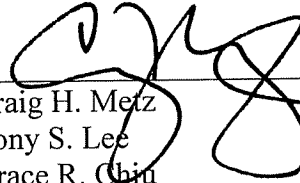
Applicants submit that expeditious grant of this Application is appropriate given that: (1) the transaction is an intra-corporate merger involving companies under common ownership and control; (2) no interruptions in service to current US LEC customers will

occur; and (3) approval of the merger is in the public interest. Applicants therefore respectfully request that this Application be considered and ruled on by the Commission no later than December 1, 2007.

VII. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the information provided herein demonstrates that the public interest, convenience, and necessity would be served by grant of the instant Application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Commission approve the Joint Application no later than December 1, 2007, to (1) permit the parties to complete the proposed intra-corporate merger of PAETEC and US LEC, with PAETEC the surviving entity; (2) assign US LEC's authorization to provide intrastate facilities-based and resold local exchange and exchange access telecommunications services; (3) cancel US LEC's authorization to provide facilities-based and resold interexchange telecommunications services in South Carolina upon completion of the intra-corporate merger, which is anticipated to occur on or about January 1, 2008, and (4) grant all other relief as necessary and appropriate to effectuate the transaction described herein.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CH Metz', written over a horizontal line.

Craig H. Metz

Tony S. Lee

Grace R. Chiu

Christine McLaughlin

VENABLE LLP

575 7th Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20004

Tel: (202) 344-4000

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E-mail: tslee@venable.com

grchiu@venable.com

cmclaughlin@venable.com

Date: September 27, 2007

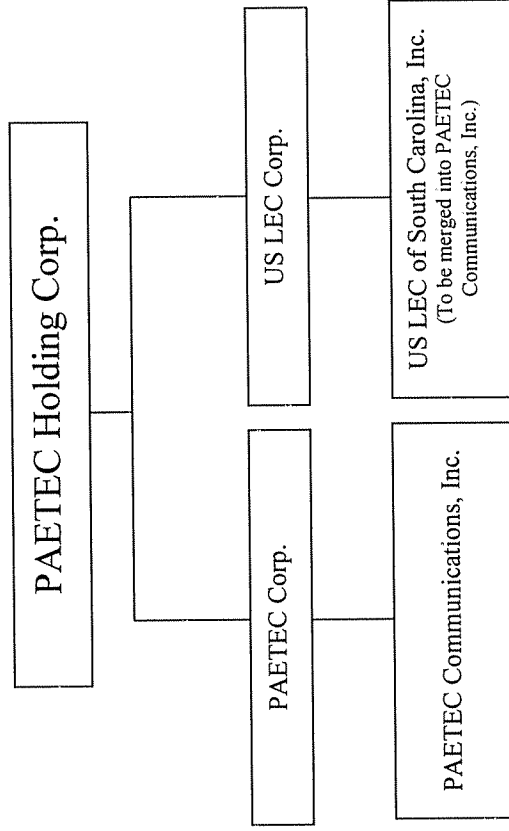
EXHIBITS

Exhibit A	Pre/Post-Merger Corporate Structure
Exhibit B	Form of Customer Notification
Exhibit C	Notice of Filing and Publication
Verification	

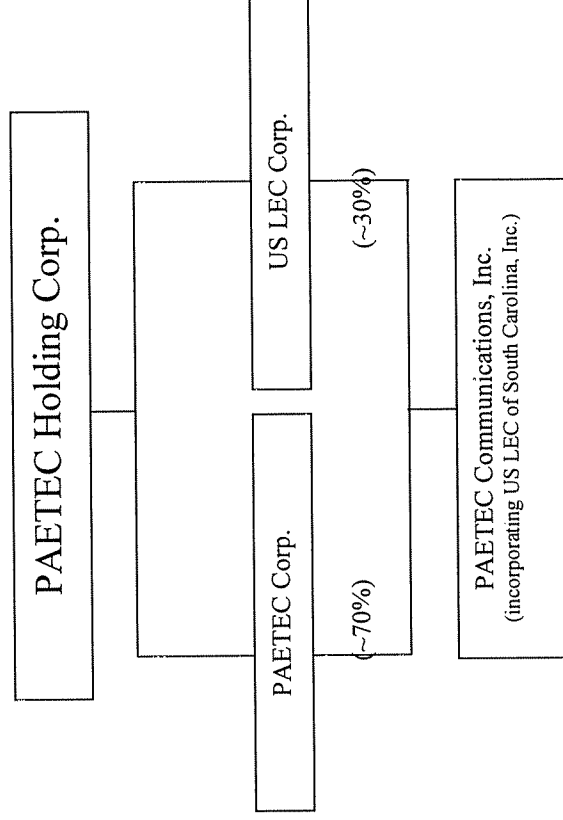
EXHIBIT A

Pre/Post-Merger Corporate Structure*

Pre-Merger Corporate Structure



Post-Merger Corporate Structure



*Unless otherwise stated, links indicate 100% ownership interest

EXHIBIT B

Form of Customer Notification



PAETEC

US LEC - PAETEC MERGER

Dear Valued Customer:

As you have likely heard, the US LEC company currently serving you¹ became part of the PAETEC family in March 2007, and now does business under the name "PAETEC Business Services." In order to simplify PAETEC's corporate structure and maximize the benefits that we offer you, we are now planning to merge your US LEC company and its affiliates into a single unified company, PAETEC Communications, Inc. ("PAETEC"). We expect this change to occur on or about January 1, 2008, pending all necessary regulatory approvals. Because this will technically result in a transfer of your service to another provider, we are required to provide certain information to you.

US LEC and PAETEC will work to ensure that the transfer of your services to PAETEC is seamless and transparent to you. Your current services will continue to be provided under the same rates, terms, and conditions that you currently enjoy with US LEC. Your service agreement with US LEC will remain in force, and will be honored by PAETEC. Your account manager will remain the same. You will be notified of any future changes in rates, terms, and conditions of service as required by law; however, no such changes are anticipated. PAETEC will be responsible for handling any questions or issues prior to and during the transfer. PAETEC will also be responsible for any carrier change charges that may be associated with the transfer. If you have placed a "freeze" on the current services, the freeze will be lifted (if needed) and your services will be transferred to PAETEC. As the service subscriber you must contact your local service provider if such provider is not PAETEC, to re-establish freeze protection for your services after the date of final transfer.

As always, you have the right to choose a different carrier for your services. If you do take steps to transfer your service to a different carrier you will need to make sure that the new service is ordered and provisioned no later than December 31, 2007. Please note that choosing to terminate services may result in early termination charges being assessed per your US LEC contract. If you are a customer of US LEC on the date of the transfer and you have not informed US LEC that you have made arrangements to switch to a carrier other than PAETEC, your services will automatically be transferred to PAETEC.

US LEC and PAETEC are committed to providing you with outstanding customer service, as well as personalized business solutions aimed to meet all of your communications needs. We look forward to continuing the mutually beneficial relationship that you have built with US LEC. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your account team to learn more about our company and service offerings. Please call us toll free at 1-877-340-2600 or visit the PAETEC website at www.paetec.com.

Cordially,

John Baron

Chief Marketing and Training Officer and Executive Vice President

¹ Our records indicate that you are served by one or more of the following companies: US LEC COMMUNICATIONS INC.; US LEC OF ALABAMA INC.; US LEC OF FLORIDA INC.; US LEC OF GEORGIA INC.; US LEC OF MARYLAND INC.; US LEC OF NORTH CAROLINA INC.; US LEC OF PENNSYLVANIA INC.; US LEC OF SOUTH CAROLINA INC.; US LEC OF TENNESSEE INC.; and US LEC OF VIRGINIA L.L.C.

EXHIBIT C

Form of Notice for Publication

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKETING DEPARTMENT
NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING
DOCKET NO. 2007-____ -C**

PAETEC Communications, Inc. ("PAETEC"), and US LEC of South Carolina, Inc. ("US LEC"), (together the Applicants) have filed with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) a Joint Application for authority to an intra-corporate merger and for the assignment of an authorization to provide local exchange and exchange access telecommunications services within the State of South Carolina. The Joint Application was filed pursuant to South Carolina Code Ann. Sections 58-9-300 and 58-9-310 and the rules and regulations of the Commission. Specifically, PAETEC and US LEC, which are both wholly-owned subsidiaries of PAETEC Corp., propose to undergo a transaction whereby US LEC will be merged into PAETEC; US LEC will cease to exist as a separate corporate entity; and PAETEC will provide service to the US LEC customers.

A copy of the Application is on file in the offices of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 and is also available from Tony S. Lee, Esquire or Christine McLaughlin, Esquire, Venable LLP, 575 7th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter, as a party of record with the right of cross-examination should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, on or before and indicate the amount of time required for his presentation. *Please refer to Docket No. 2007-____ -C.*

Any person who wishes to testify and present evidence at a hearing (if scheduled) should notify the Docketing Department in writing at the address below, and Tony S. Lee, Esquire, at the above address in writing, on or before, _____ and indicate the amount of time required for his presentation. *Please refer to Docket No. 2007-____ -C.*

Any person who wishes to be notified of the hearing date (should one be held in this Docket), or any changes in a scheduled hearing date, but does not wish to present testimony or be a party of record, may do so by notifying the Docketing Department in writing at the address below on or before. *Please refer to Docket No. 2007-____ -C.*

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: Any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding MUST present such comments, in person, to the Commission during the hearing. Persons seeking information about the Commission's Procedures should contact the Commission by dialing (803) 896-5113.

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Attn: Docketing Department
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

OCT/____/07

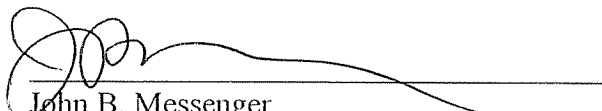
PO Drawer 11649, Columbia, SC 29211, Synergy Business Park, 101 Executive Center Dr.,
Columbia, SC 29210-8411, 803-896-5100, www.psc.state.sc.us

VERIFICATION

VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK §
 §
COUNTY OF MONROE §

I, John B. Messenger, hereby verify under penalty of perjury that I am Vice President and Assistant Secretary of PAETEC Communications, Inc.; that I am authorized to make this verification on behalf of the company; that I have read the foregoing document and know the contents thereof; and that the same are true of my own knowledge, except to those matters therein stated upon information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.


John B. Messenger
Vice President and Assistant Secretary
PAETEC Communications, Inc.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 24 th day of September, 2007.



My commission expires: 11/30/10

KAREN E. FERRINI
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 4765553
Qualified in Monroe County 2010
Commission Expires Nov. 30, _____

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SO PUEBLO BLVD
COMMERCIAL